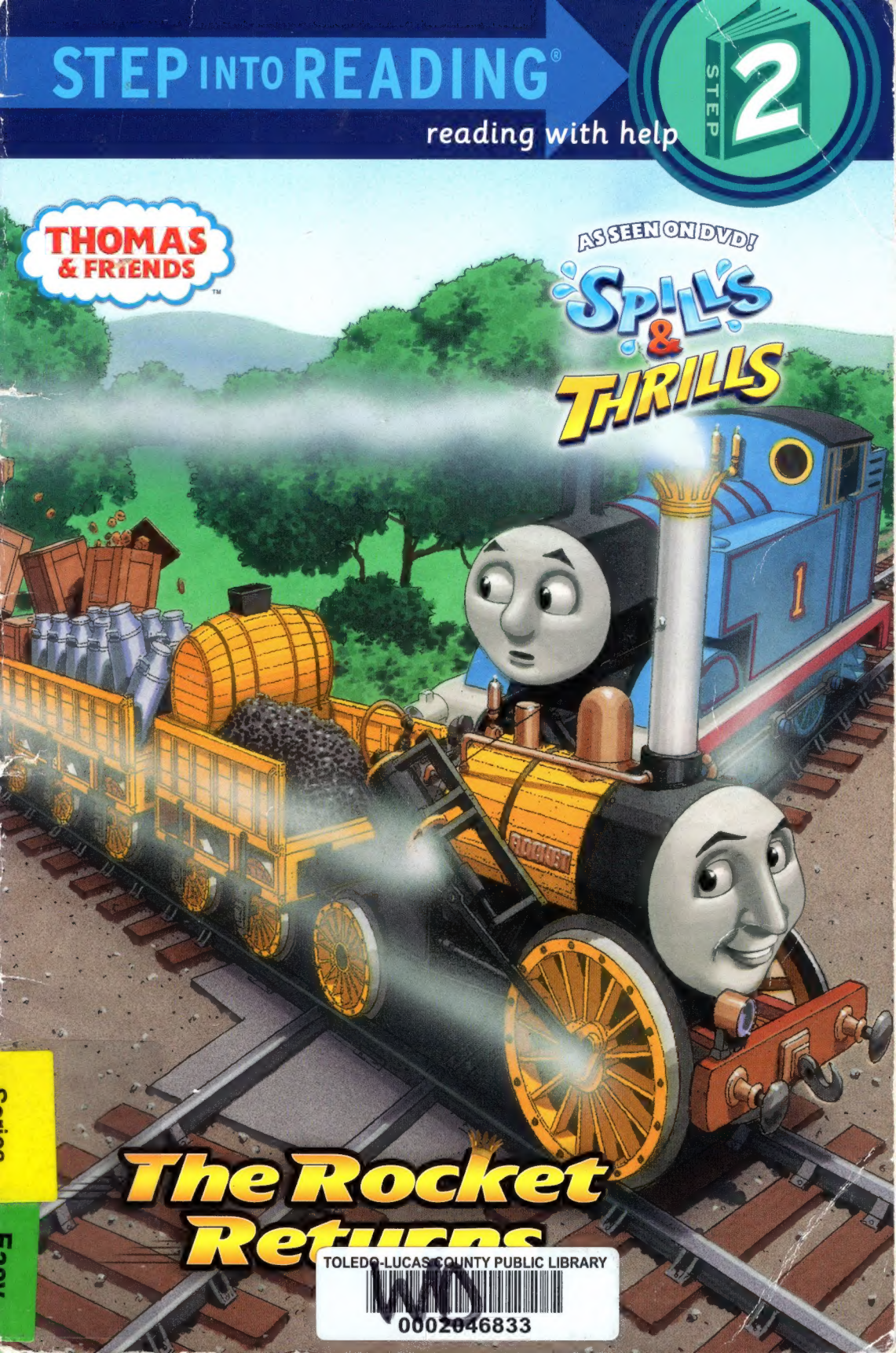
STEP INTO READING®

reading with help

STEP 2




TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
0002046833

## THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

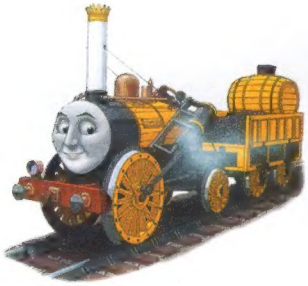
your name here!

## 3 of my *favorite* books

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....

Here is a picture of **me**
after I finish a **great** book!

# Dear Parent:



Congratulations! Your child is taking the first steps on an exciting journey. The destination? Independent reading!

**STEP INTO READING®** will help your child get there. The program offers five steps to reading success. Each step includes fun stories and colorful art. There are also Step into Reading Sticker Books, Step into Reading Math Readers, Step into Reading Phonics Readers, Step into Reading Write-In Readers, and Step into Reading Phonics Boxed Sets—a complete literacy program with something to interest every child.

## Learning to Read, Step by Step!

**Ready to Read** Preschool–Kindergarten
• big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues
For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.

**Reading with Help** Preschool–Grade 1
• basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories
For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.

**Reading on Your Own** Grades 1–3
• engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics
For children who are ready to read on their own.

**Reading Paragraphs** Grades 2–3
• challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories
For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.

**Ready for Chapters** Grades 2–4
• chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art
For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

**STEP INTO READING®** is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides. Children can progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading, no matter what their grade.

Remember, a life

jE
The Rocket returns
[01/14]

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™

CREATED BY BRITT ALLCROFT

Based on The Railway Series by The Reverend W Awdry.
© 2014 Gullane (Thomas) LLC.
Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and Thomas & Friends are trademarks of Gullane (Thomas) Limited.
HIT and the HIT Entertainment logo are trademarks of HIT Entertainment Limited.
All rights reserved. Published in the United States by Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House LLC, 1745 Broadway, New York, 10019, and in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto, Penguin Random House Companies.

Step into Reading, Random House, and the Random House colophon are registered trademarks of Random House LLC.

Visit us on the Web!
StepIntoReading.com
randomhouse.com/kids
www.thomasandfriends.com

Educators and librarians, for a variety of teaching tools, visit us at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com

ISBN 978-0-385-37384-5

Printed in the United States of America
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Random House Children's Books supports the First Amendment and celebrates the right to read.

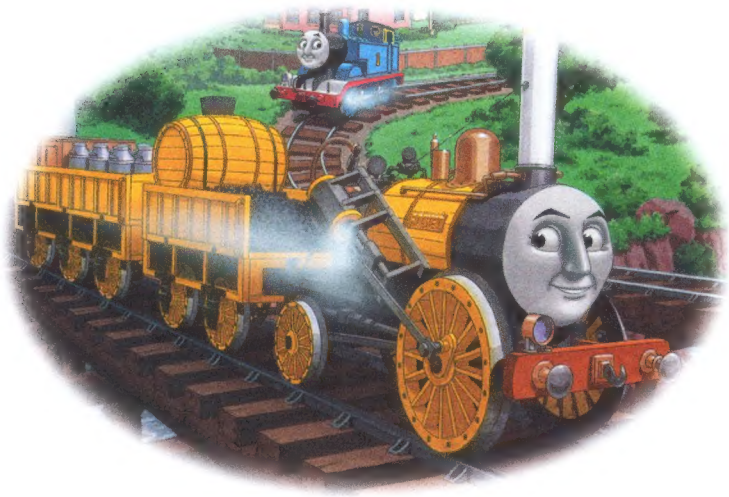
STEP INTO READING®

STEP 2

THOMAS & FRIENDS™

AS SEEN ON DVD!
SPILLS & THRILLS

# The Rocket Returns

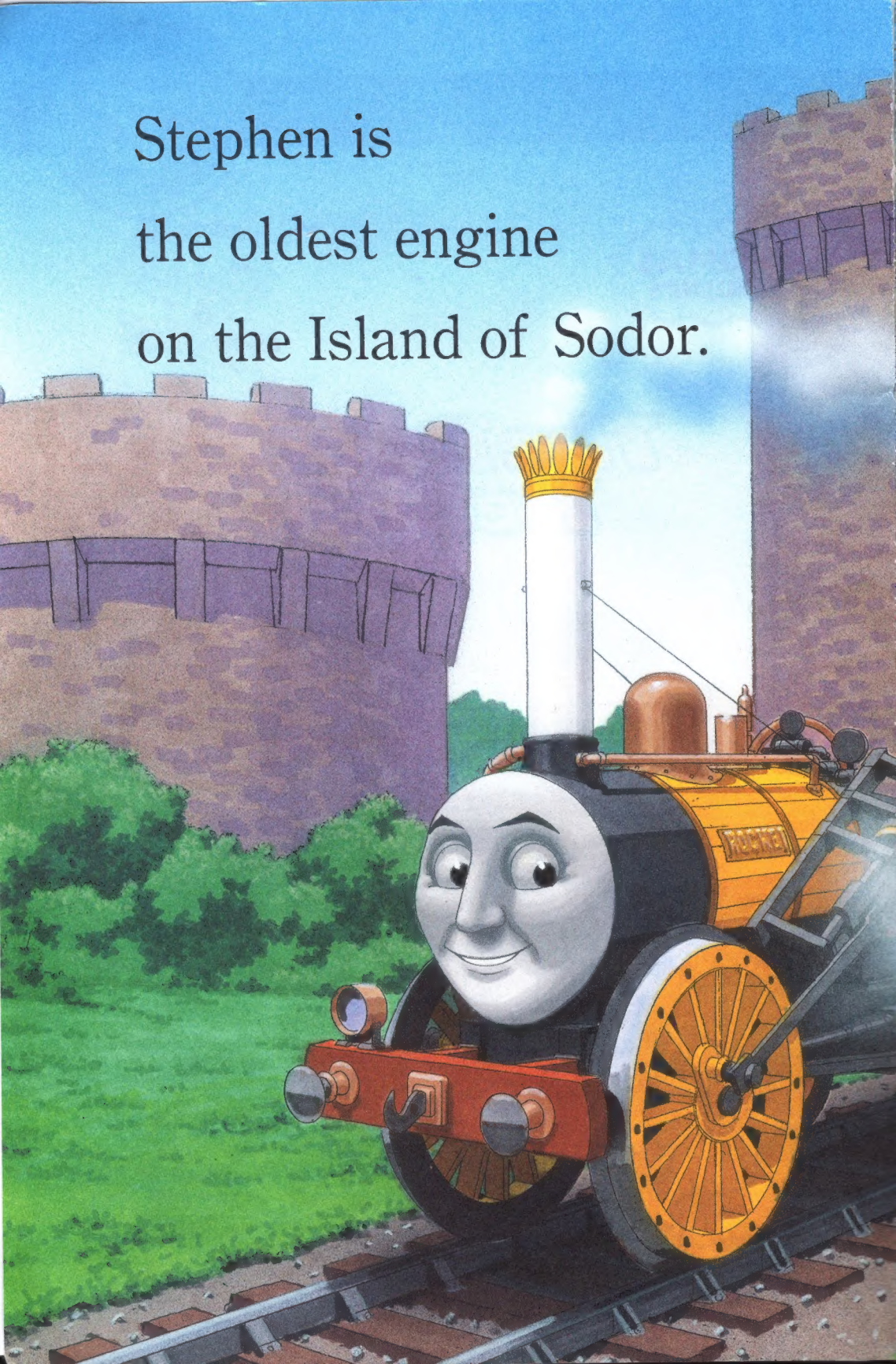


Based on The Railway Series
by The Reverend W Awdry

Illustrated by Richard Courtney

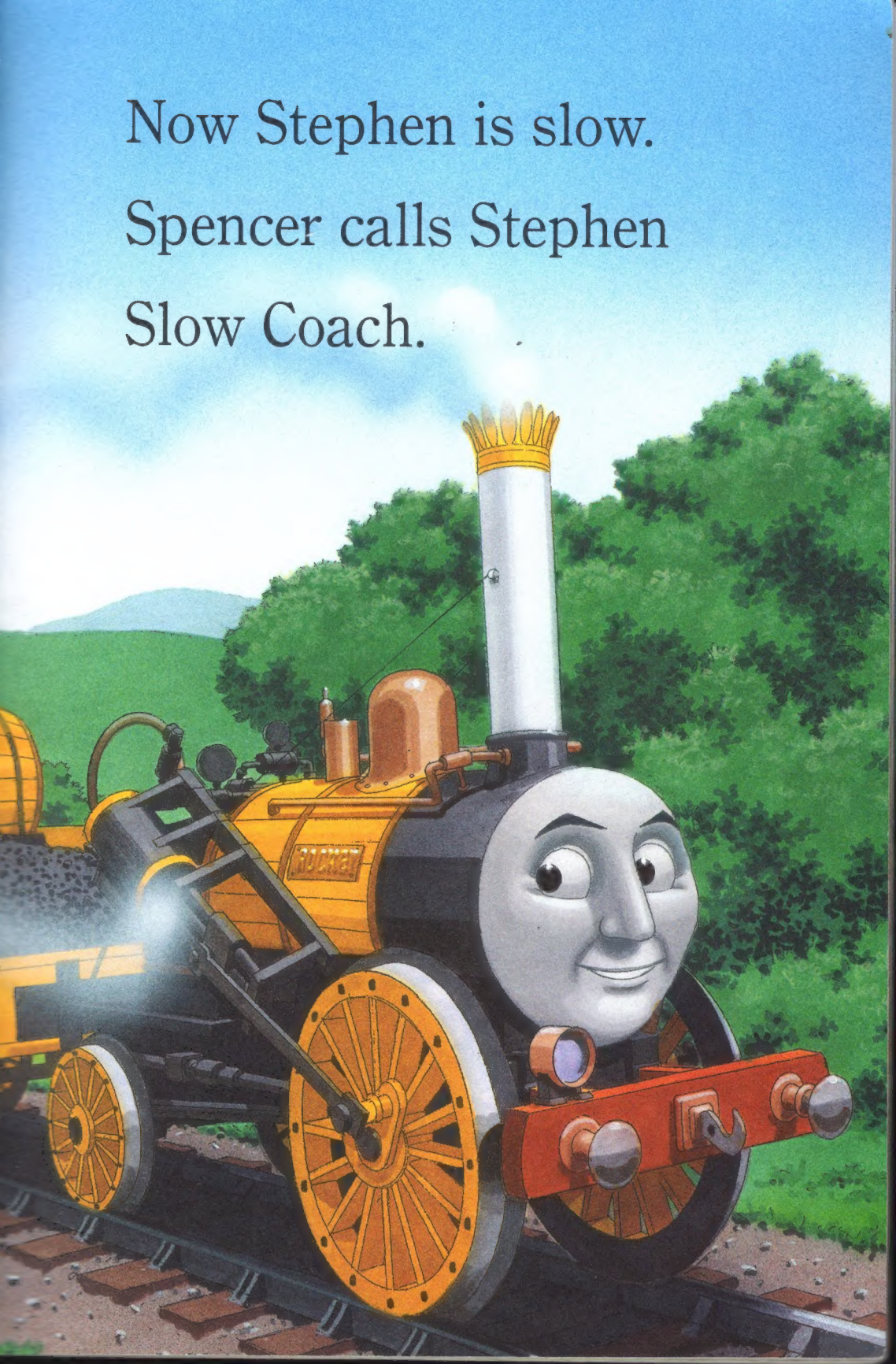
Random House New York

Stephen is
the oldest engine
on the Island of Sodor.

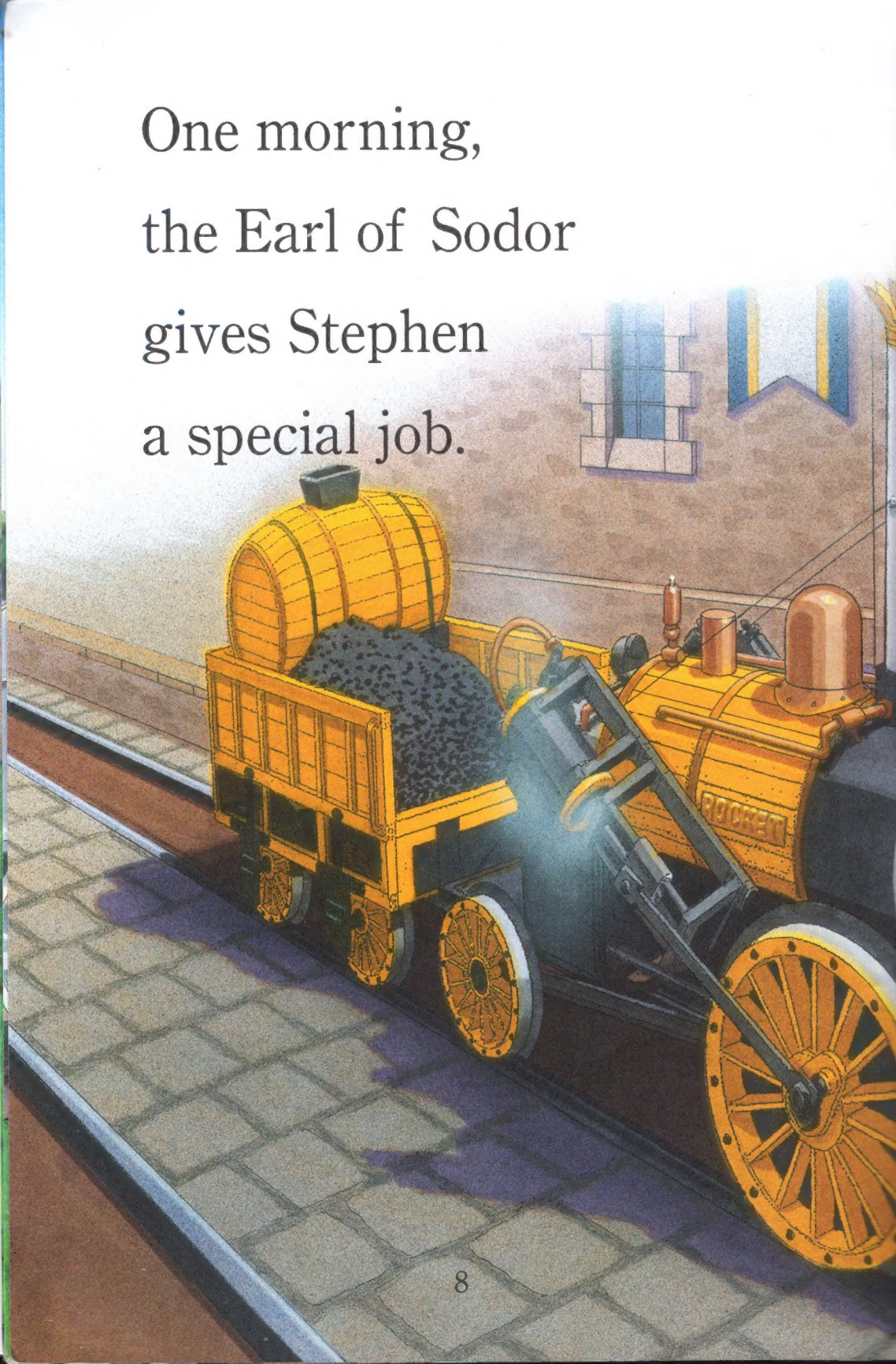


A long time ago,
Stephen was very fast.
He was called
the Rocket.

Now Stephen is slow.
Spencer calls Stephen
Slow Coach.



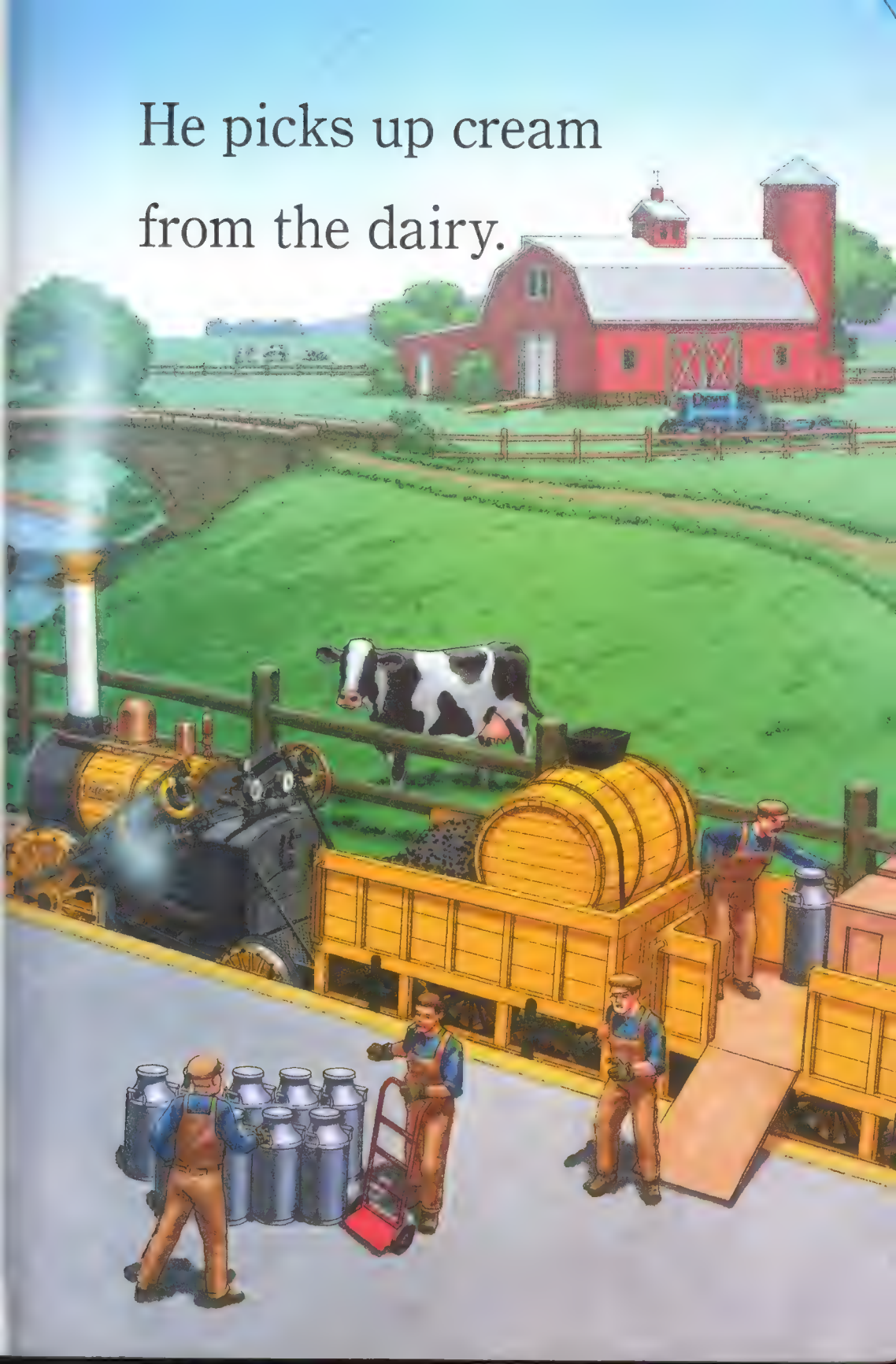
One morning,
the Earl of Sodor
gives Stephen
a special job.



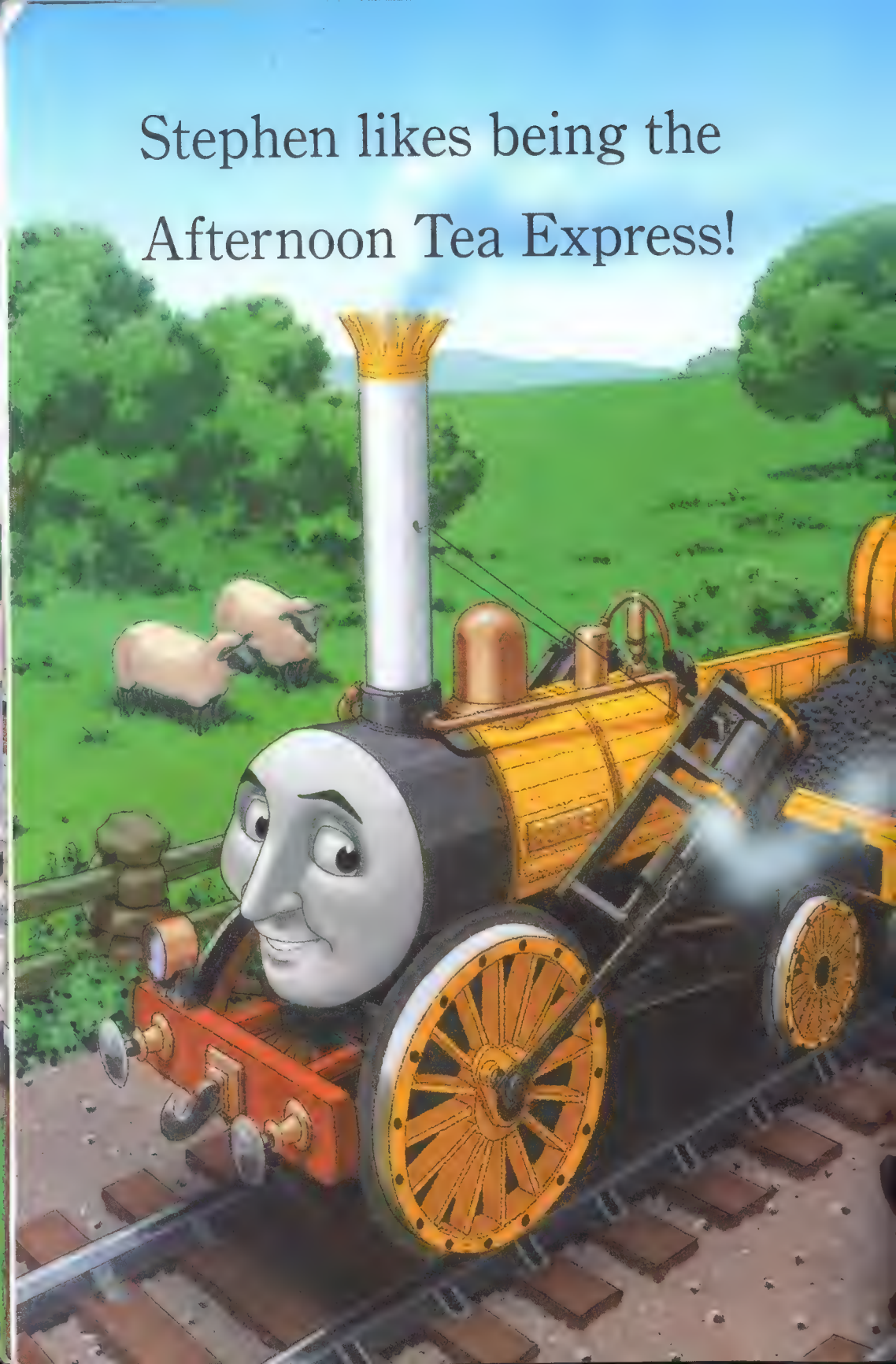
Stephen will be the
Afternoon Tea Express!

Stephen gets to work.
He picks up cookies
from the bakery.

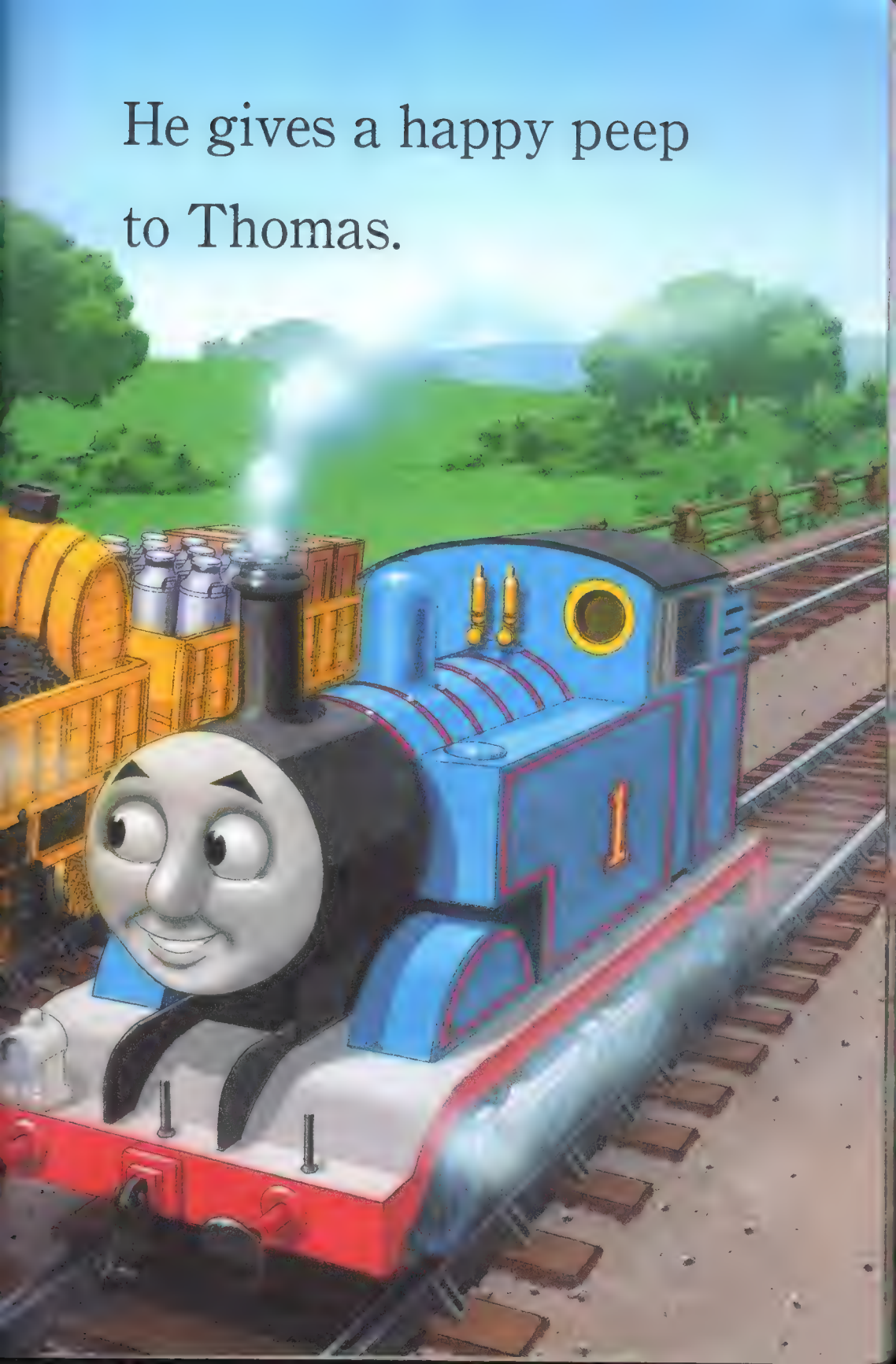
He picks up cream
from the dairy.



Stephen likes being the Afternoon Tea Express!

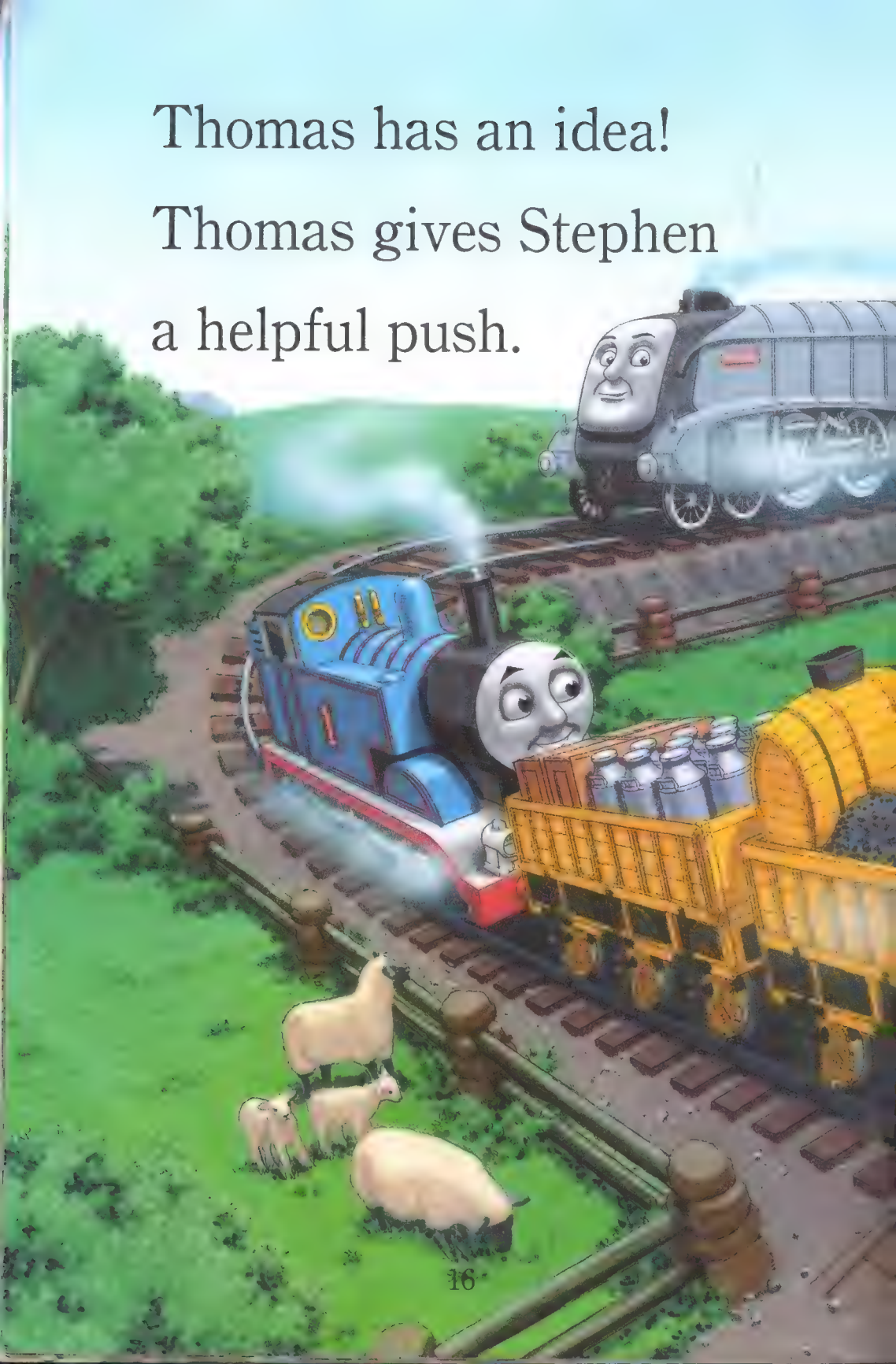


He gives a happy peep
to Thomas.



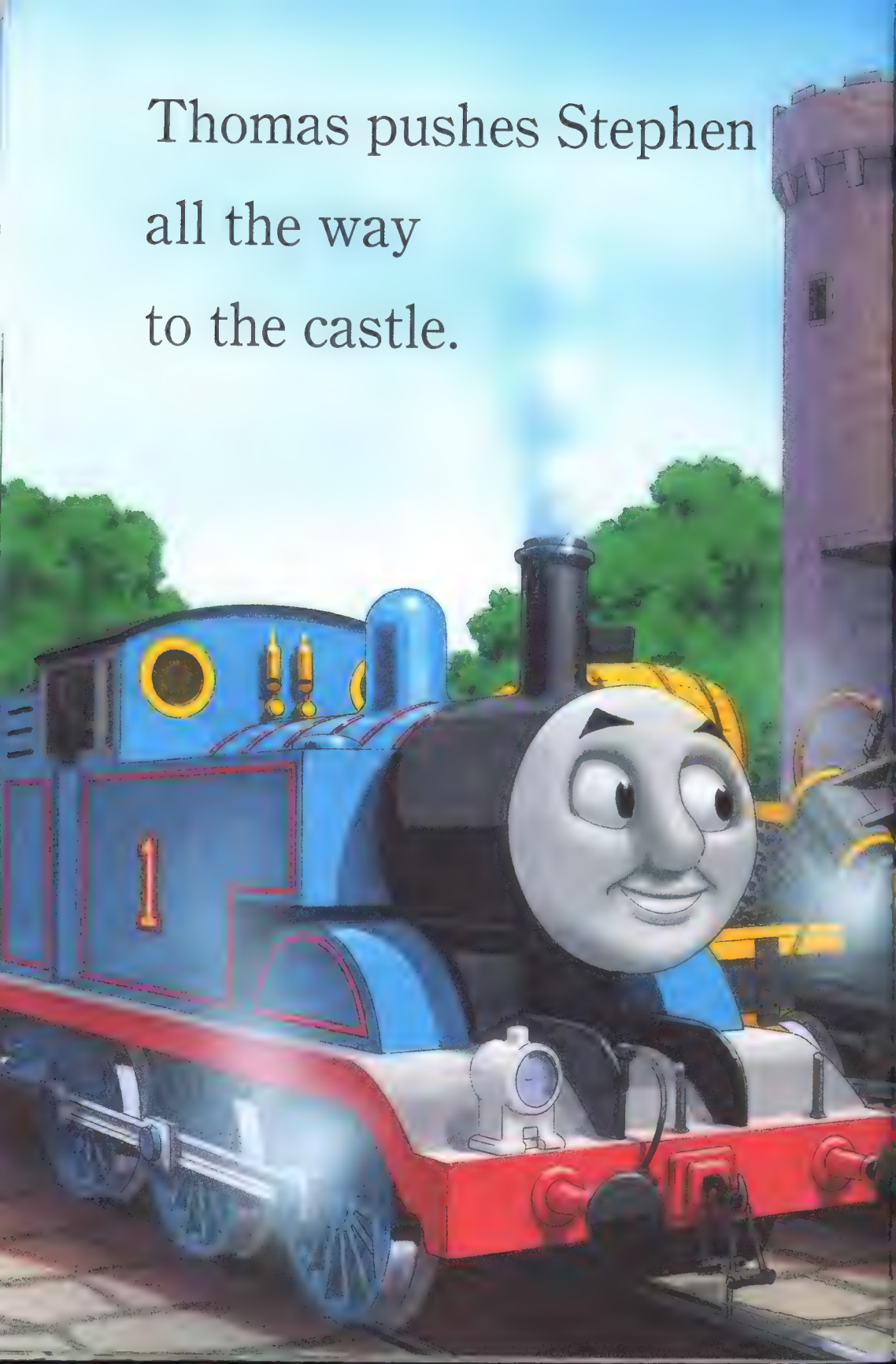
Spencer is not happy.
He is behind
the Slow Coach again!

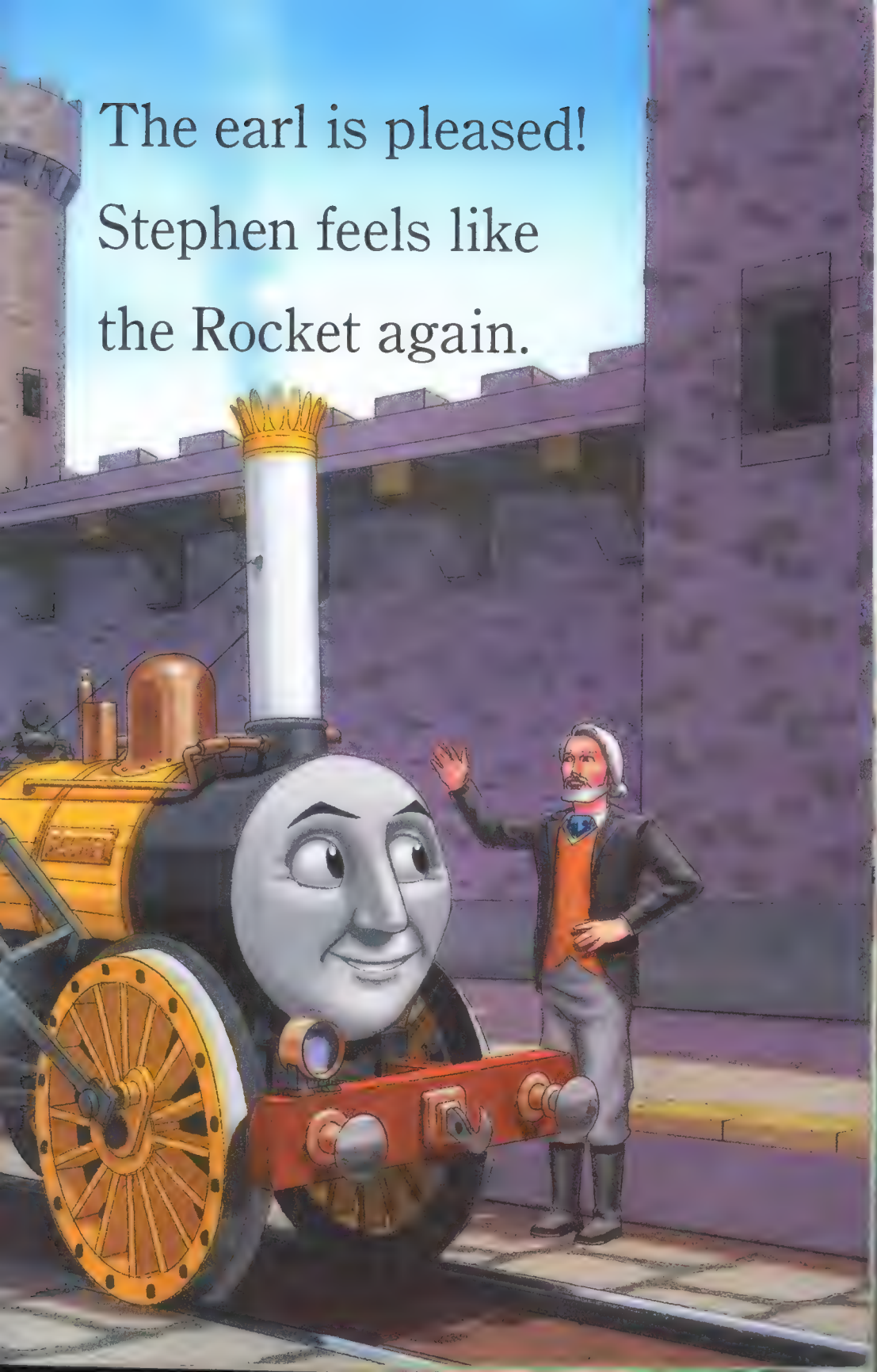
Thomas has an idea!
Thomas gives Stephen
a helpful push.



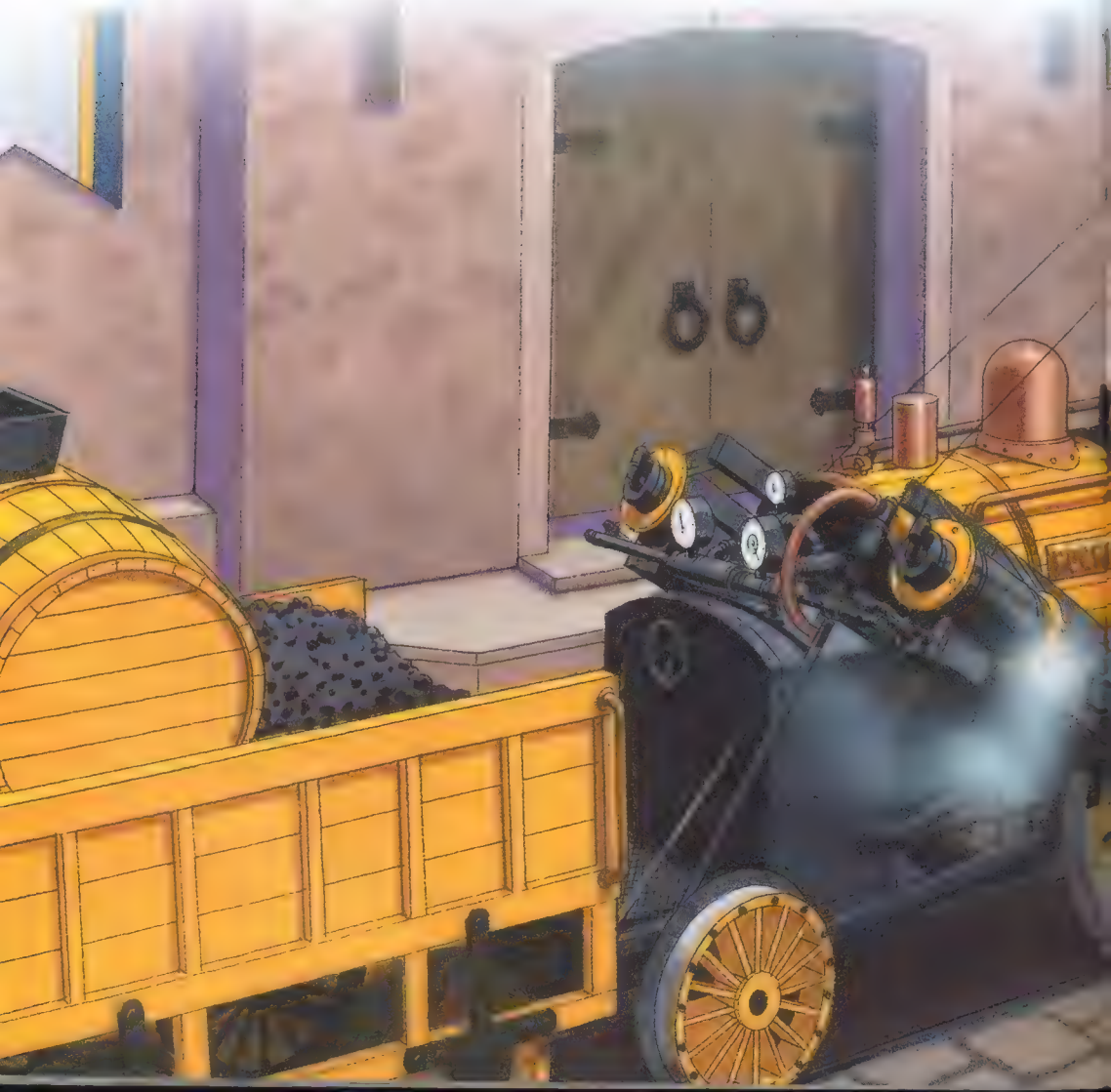
They go faster.
Stephen is scared
at first!

Thomas pushes Stephen
all the way
to the castle.



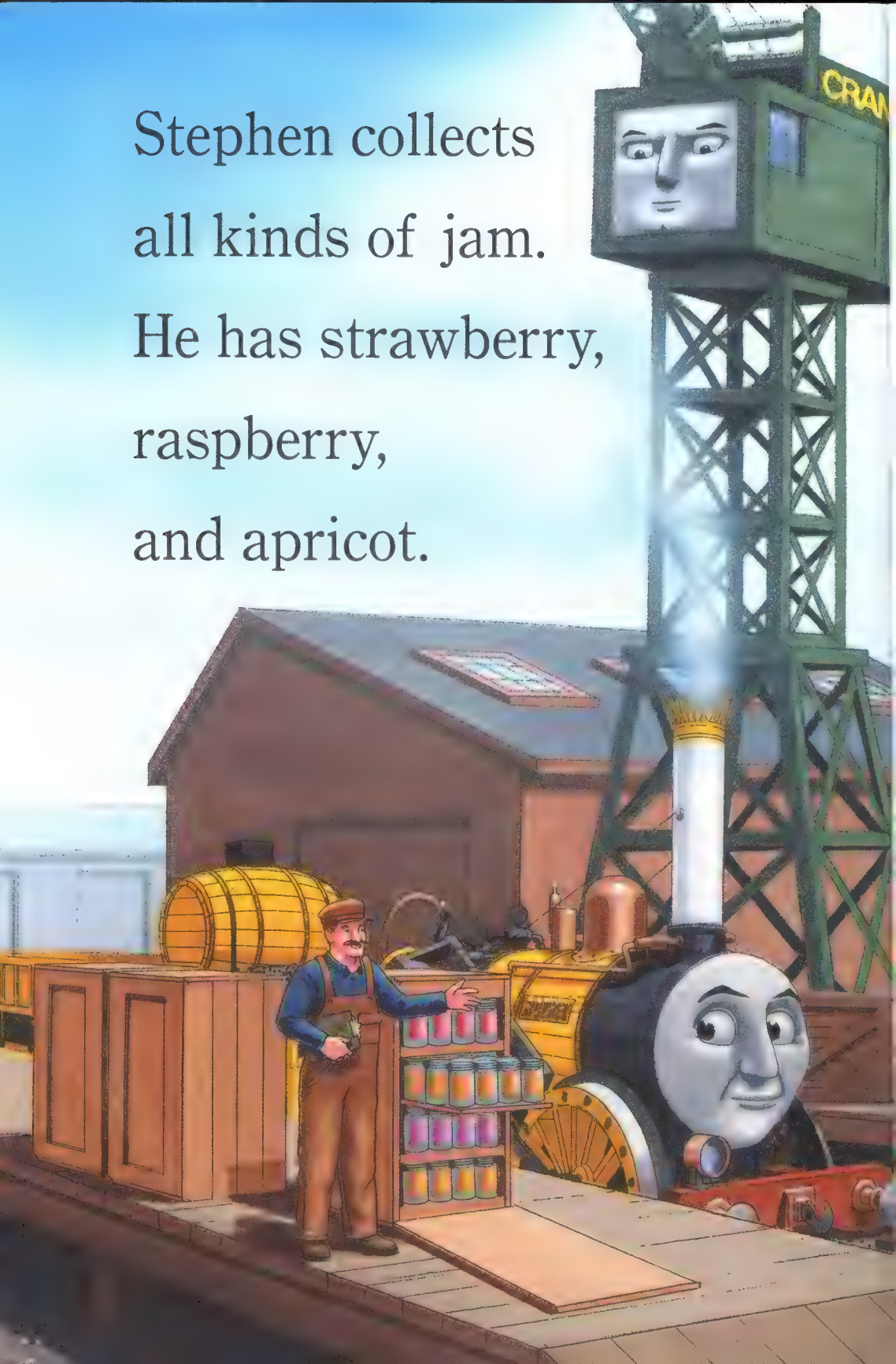

The earl is pleased!
Stephen feels like
the Rocket again.

The earl is having
Sir Topham Hatt
and Lady Hatt
for tea.

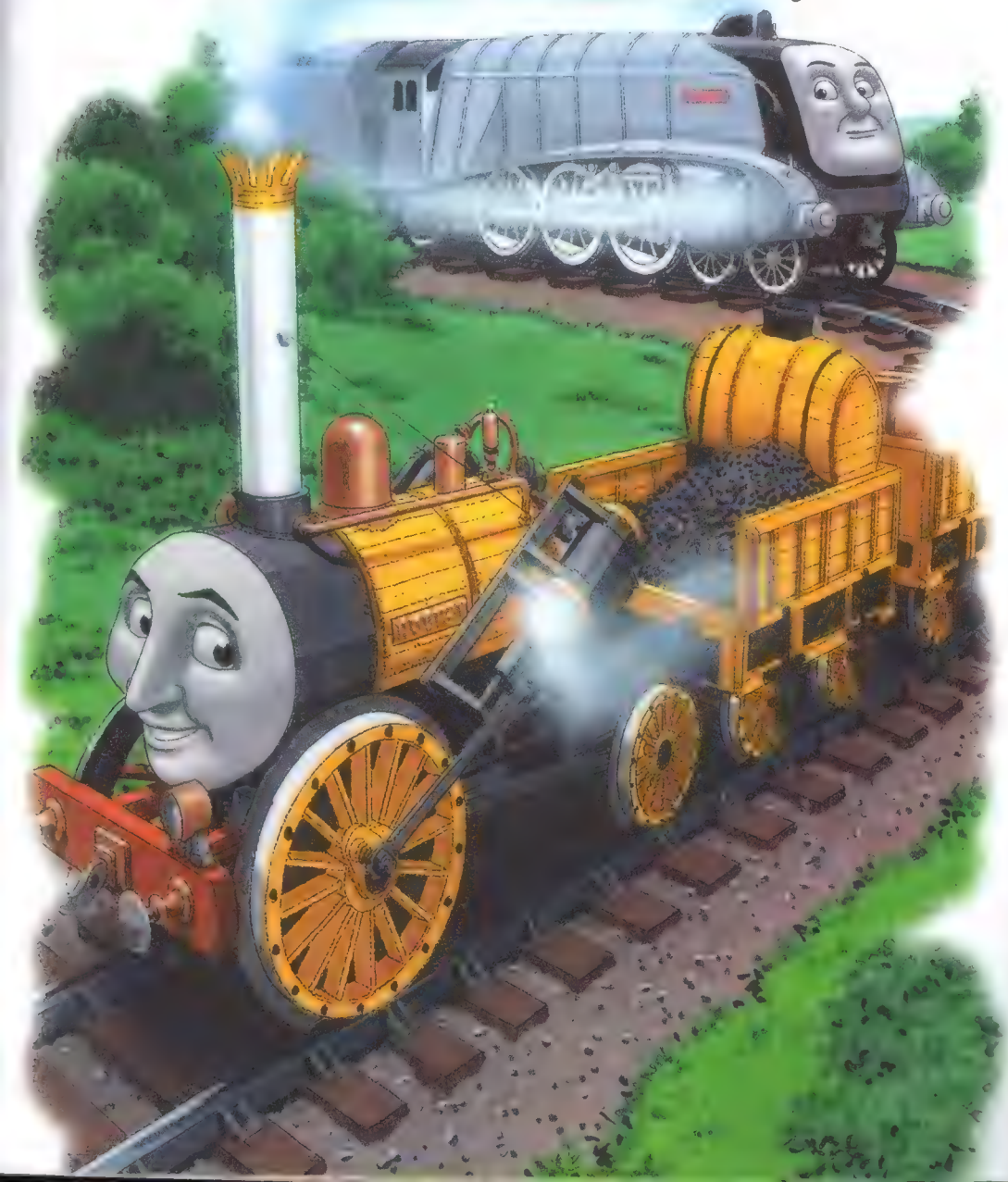


The earl asks Stephen to get some jam for tea. Stephen will be the Afternoon Tea Express again!

Stephen collects
all kinds of jam.
He has strawberry,
raspberry,
and apricot.



Spencer wants
the Slow Coach
to move out of his way.



Stephen wishes

Thomas were there.

Thomas would help

Stephen be the Rocket!

Spencer wants to help.
He gives Stephen
a mighty push.
Spencer pushes Stephen
too fast!

*Screech!*

Stephen puts on his brakes.

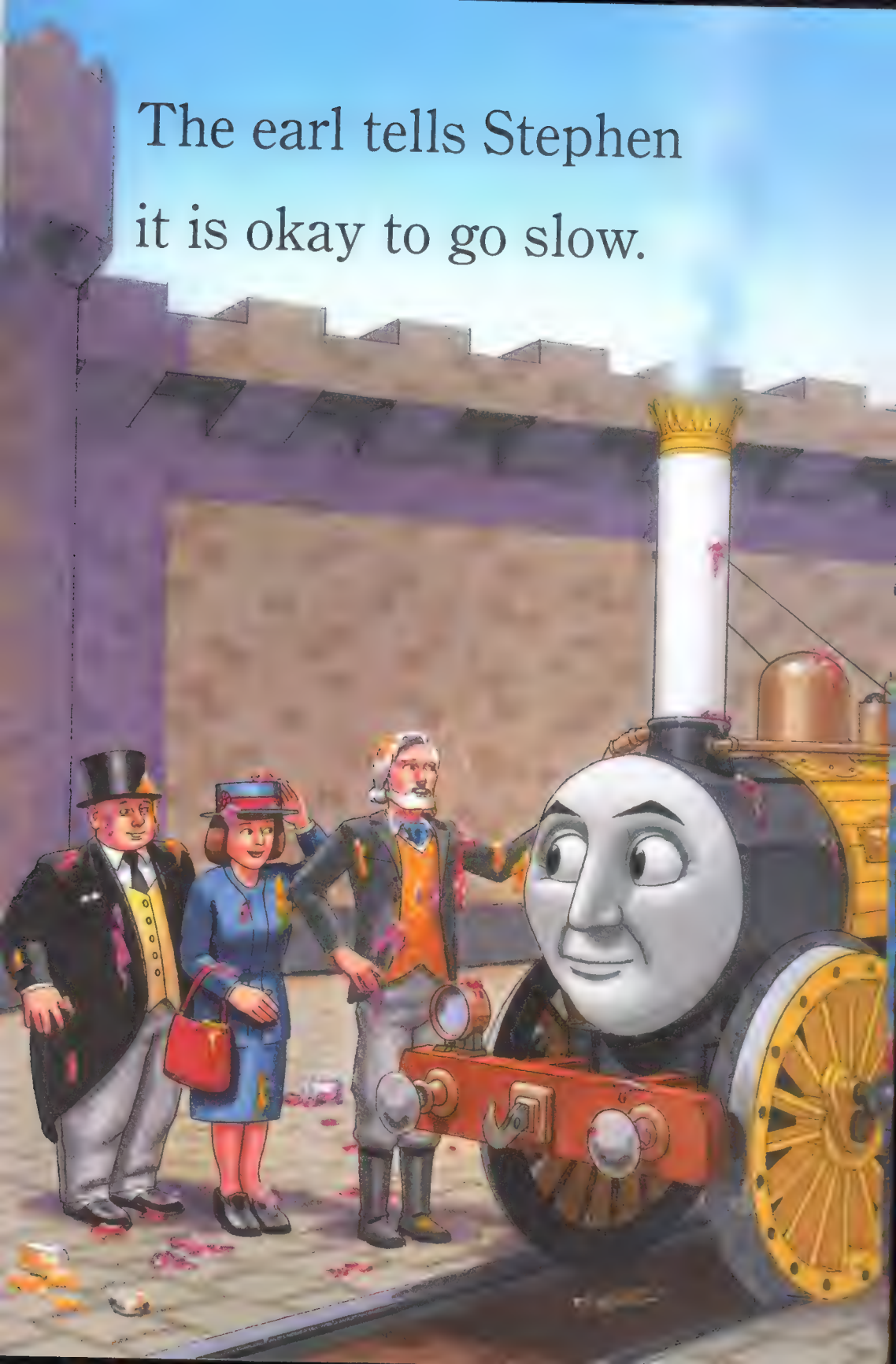
The jam jars break.

Everyone is covered

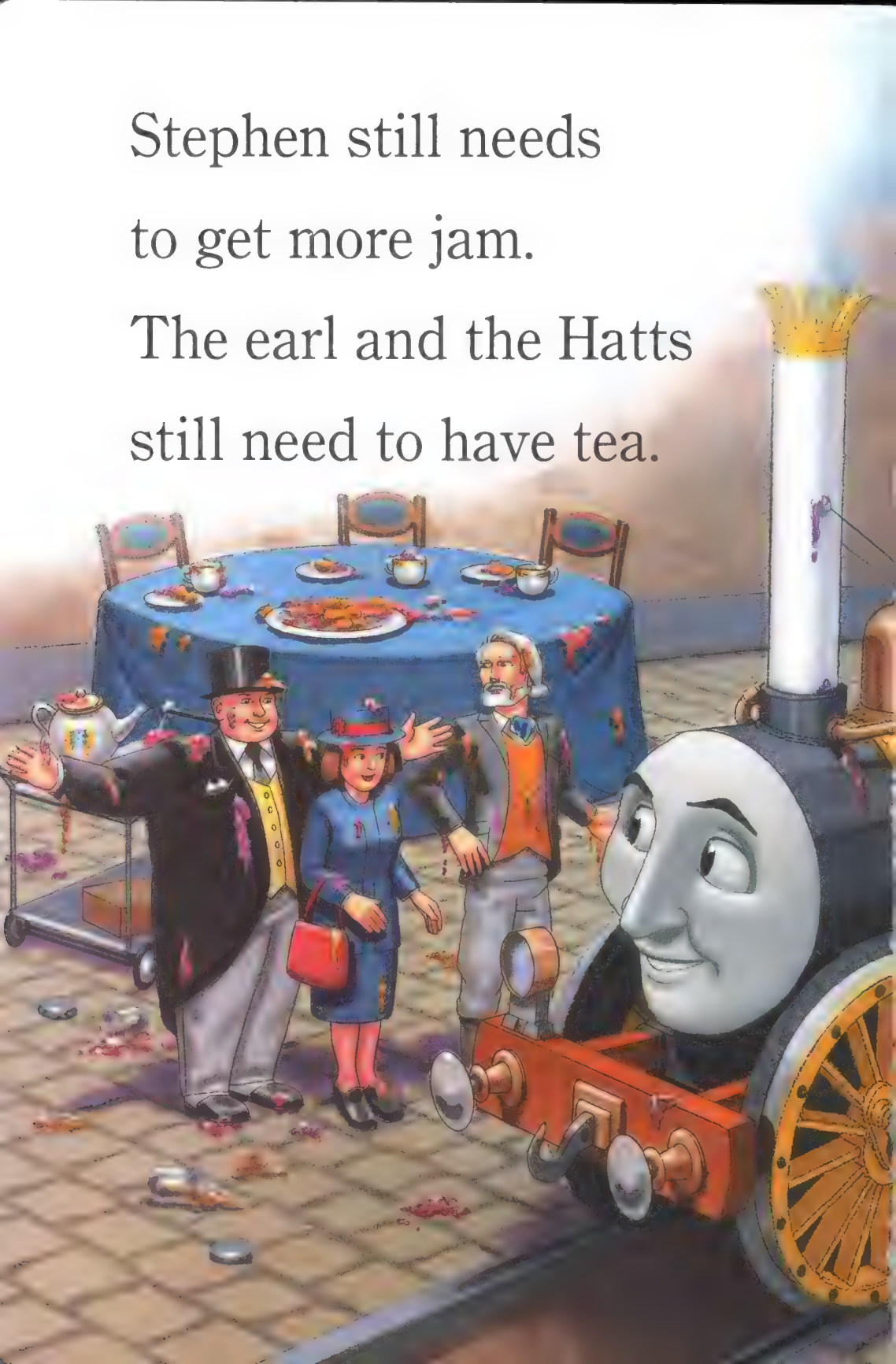
in jam!

Thomas tells the earl
about his helpful push.

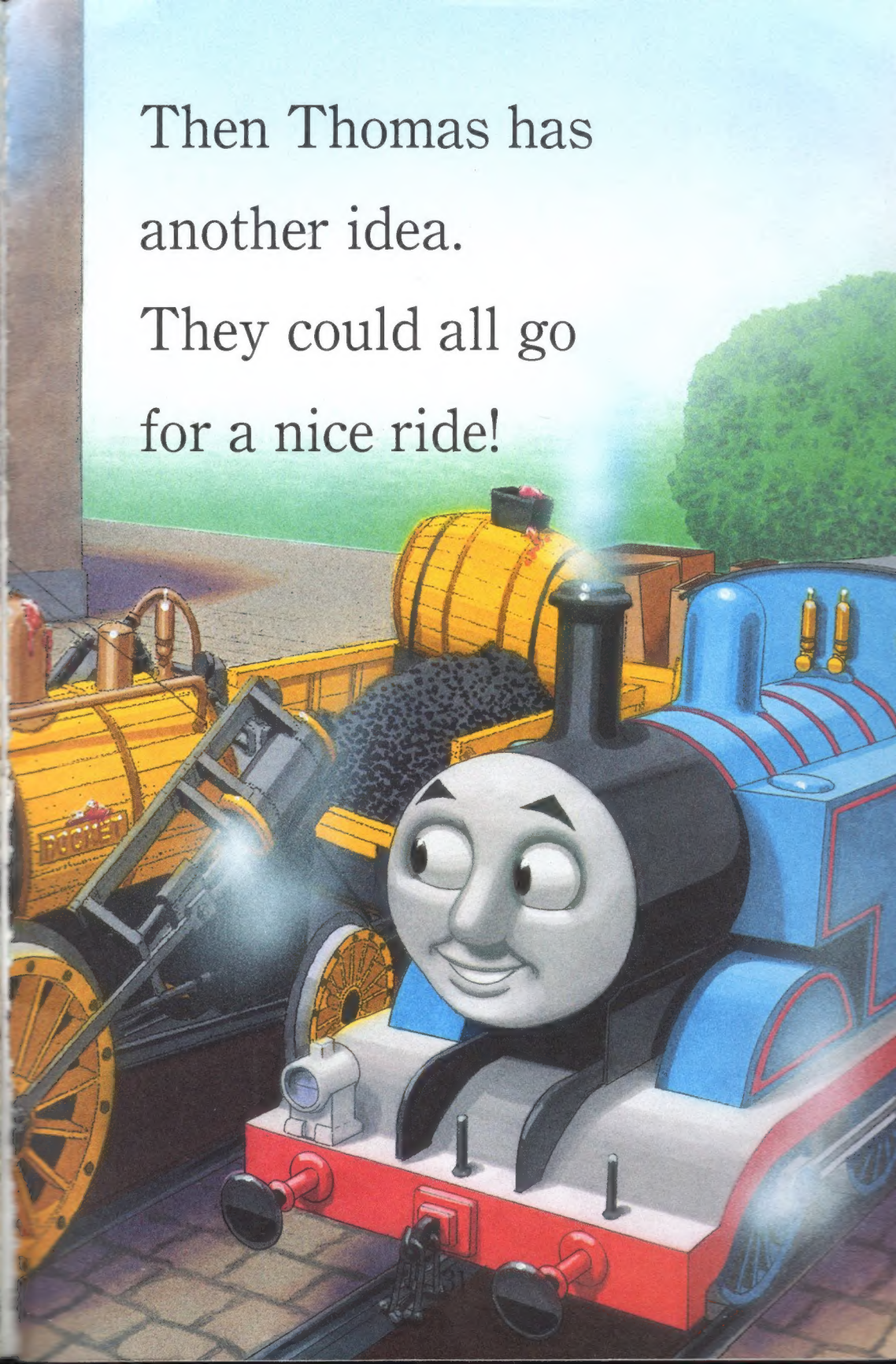
The earl tells Stephen
it is okay to go slow.



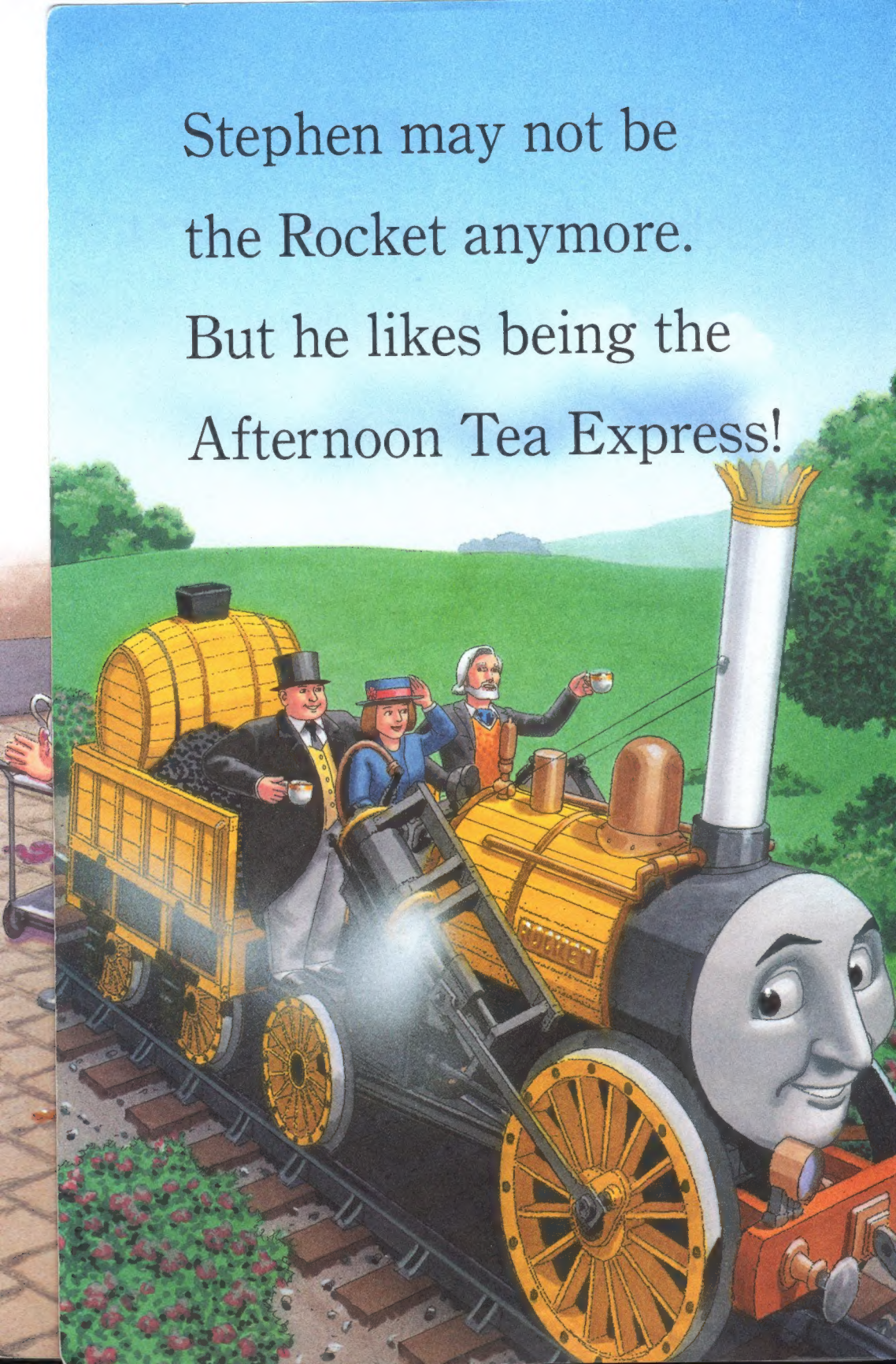
Stephen still needs
to get more jam.
The earl and the Hatts
still need to have tea.



Then Thomas has another idea. They could all go for a nice ride!



Stephen may not be
the Rocket anymore.
But he likes being the
Afternoon Tea Express!

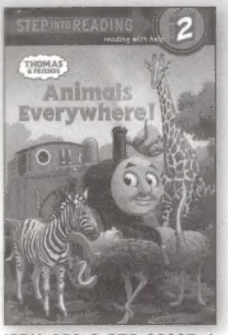


# Read with Thomas & Friends™ anywhere!

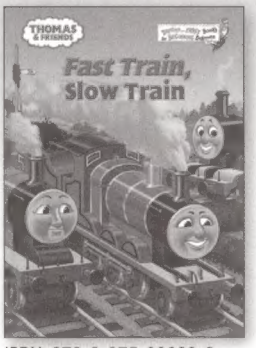
THOMAS & FRIENDS

Also available in ebooks!

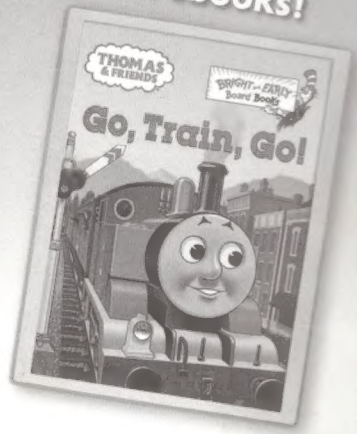
Keep reading full steam ahead!

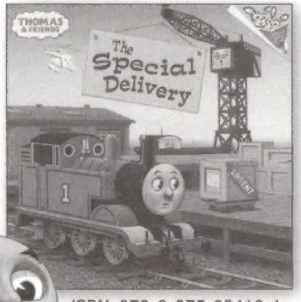



ISBN: 978-0-375-98897-4

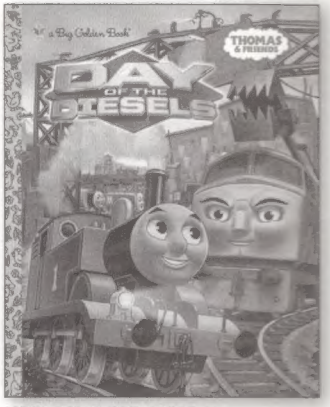



ISBN: 978-0-375-98620-8

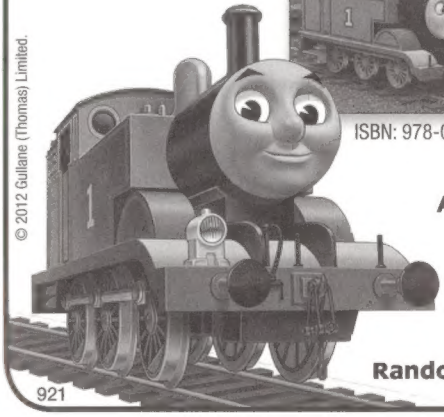



ISBN: 978-0-375-98418-1




ISBN: 978-0-375-98899-8

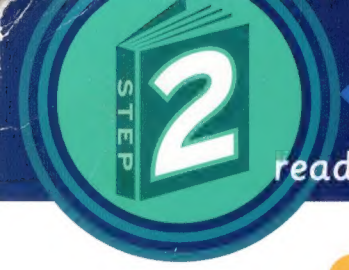


Available wherever books and ebooks are sold.

RandomHouse.com/kids/thomas

RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

© 2012 Gullane (Thomas) Limited.




# STEP INTO READING®

reading with help

It's time for YOU!
Pick your favorite spot to read.
This is going to be a great book!

What this book is about . . .

**The Rocket Returns**

Stephen used to be so speedy he was called the Rocket! Can Thomas help him go fast again?

## Learning to Read, Step by Step!

Ready to Read Preschool–Kindergarten

Reading with Help Preschool–Grade 1

Does your child recognize familiar words on sight and sound out new words with help? Step 2 is just right.

Basic Vocabulary • Short Sentences • Simple Stories

Reading on Your Own Grades 1–3

Reading Paragraphs Grades 2–3

To learn about all the Steps, turn to page 1.

Ready for Chapters Grades 2–4

**US $3.99** / $4.99 CAN

ISBN 978-0-385-37384-5

50399

9 780385 373845

HiT entertainment

www.thomasandfriends.com

RANDOM HOUSE

StepIntoReading.com

randomhouse.com/kids